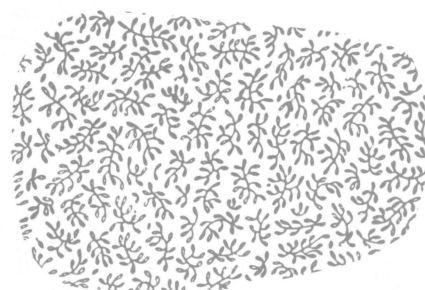
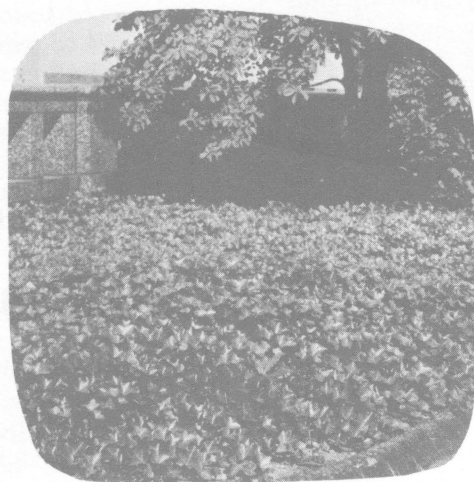
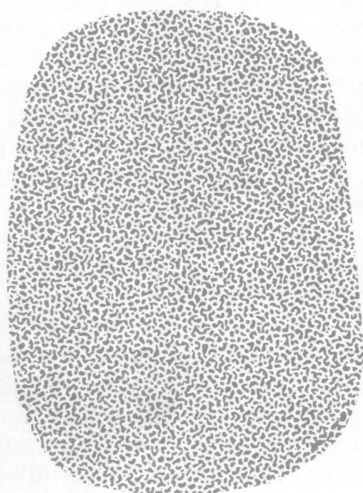
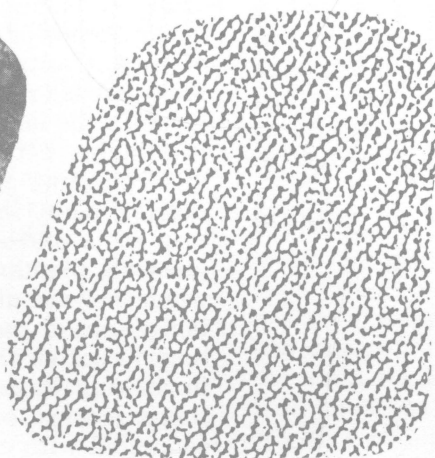
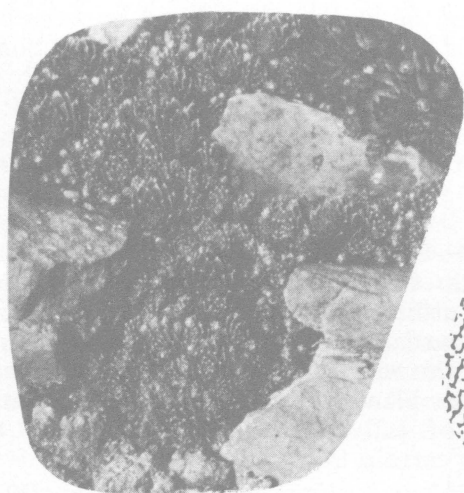


Selected Ground Covers for Ohio



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Ground covers are low-growing plants that spread by underground stems or are naturally of trailing habit. They are principally used as substitutes for turf. Generally, turf is the best cover, the least expensive, often the easiest to establish and about the only one that can be repeatedly walked on. Substitutes for turf are often necessary or desirable and are used in a variety of ways.

Commonly, ground covers are used on slopes or steep banks to prevent soil erosion and eliminate mowing. Other locations include moist soil or shaded areas, woodland or rock gardens, and crevices between stones or blocks on patios and terraces. Some of these plants have a place in poor soils, rough or rocky areas or where a different texture is needed to enhance the design. Other possible uses are in narrow strips between buildings, along walks, as an underplanting for trees and shrubs, and as a connecting plant in the foundation planting. Exposed tree roots and stumps are often covered with low growing plants. Ground covers are very effective when they are utilized to provide settings for flowering plants or garden ornaments. The proper plants tend to soften the edges of steps and paths and aid in making them blend with the surrounding landscape. Stems of tall growing perennials can be concealed with certain types of ground covers.

Many ground cover plants have esthetic qualities which are not found with turf grasses. The attractive flowers of certain plants such as candytuft, phlox, daphne, myrtle or St. Johnswort add considerably to a planting. The bright colored fruits of cotoneasters or roses offer ornamental interest in autumn. Beauty the year round is obtained with the evergreen foliage of pachysandra, myrtle, English ivy, pachistima, sedum and many others.

SOIL PREPARATION

In the planting area remove all sod and till the soil to at least 6 inches in depth. Treat the soil to eliminate insects, disease, and weed seeds. Sterilization by steam is the most satisfactory method. However, this method is impractical in the home yard. Fortunately, soil sterilant chemicals are available to commercial nurserymen to eliminate soil pests.

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Detailed information on soil sterilization is available from nurserymen, landscape contractors, garden center operators, or county agricultural Extension agents.

If the soil has not been sterilized or fumigated, weeds will most likely be prevalent the first year. Pre-emergence herbicides which kill germinating weed seeds can be used to save time and the expense of hand weeding. Available chemicals which can be used safely with certain ground covers are dacthal, diphenamid, norea, and trifluralin. Prior to purchasing a chemical, read the label to be sure the herbicide is the proper one for the ground covers being planted. Herbicides have to be applied yearly until the ground cover fills in enough to shade out weeds.

Heavy, clay type soils are often moist and prevalent in Ohio. Drain these soils before planting. Add organic material to heavy soils to improve aeration, water penetration and infiltration. Organic materials such as leaf mold, compost, well rotted manures, peat moss, sawdust, or similar materials should be incorporated in liberal amounts. The same materials can be mixed with light sandy soils to aid in retaining moisture.

To determine the pH and fertility levels of the planting site, take a soil test prior to planting. County agricultural agents of the Cooperative Extension Service can assist property owners by supplying soil test kits and information sheets.

The majority of plants thrive in a slightly acid to neutral soil. This means a pH range of 6.0 to 7.0. If the pH level needs to be adjusted, it should be done prior to planting. Soil test report recommendations will indicate the type and rate of chemicals to use to properly correct the pH.

A commercial fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are often needed prior to planting and each year thereafter. Organic fertilizers such as rotted or dried manure, bone meal, cottonseed meal, and others are frequently used but most often need to be supplemented with a complete chemical fertilizer.

Commercial fertilizers of a 4 to 5 percent nitrogen content such as 4-12-4, 5-10-10, etc., should be applied annually at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet unless otherwise specified on the soil test report. Use organic type fertilizers according to the rate specified on the package.

PLANTING

Most ground cover plants can be planted any time during the growing season. Spring and fall are the seasons when most planting is done; however, many ground covers are grown in containers and may be planted throughout the summer.

Spacing between plants depends on the habit of the plant, its rate of growth, and the immediate effect desired. Plants such as English ivy, pachysandra, or myrtle are usually planted on one foot centers; cranberry cotoneaster, junipers, and euony-

mus, 3 feet apart; and rockspray cotoneaster and trailing roses, 4 to 5 feet apart. If an immediate effect is desired, closer spacing is necessary.

MAINTENANCE

Watering

Water plants at regular intervals until they are well-established and also during dry weather after establishment. Apply enough water each time to thoroughly wet the soil to the base of the root system. Use of lawn sprinklers or soaker hoses are usually more efficient than watering by hand with a hose. Brief, light sprinklings are not effective.

Weeding

Ground cover plants may require weeding for several years or until a solid carpet has formed.

Weed growth may be reduced by mulching the soil around the plants with materials such as peat moss, buckwheat hulls, sawdust or wood chips, pine or hardwood bark, or others that may be available. Establishment of plants is usually faster as a result of mulching due to more even soil temperatures and a conservation of soil moisture. The use of sawdust, wood chips, or corn cobs as a mulch will require an additional application of nitrogen fertilizer at the rate mentioned previously. Pre-emergence herbicides (discussed in soil preparation) are available to control weeds as the seeds germinate. This practice is an important labor saver until the plants form a cover over the ground.

Pruning

At planting time, many ground covers may be pruned by one-half or more to encourage greater branch development and a more dense growth. Pruning causes buds to break from the base or along the main stem of the plant. Ivy or myrtle with long trailing stems are examples of plants which may be cut back at planting.

Subsequent pruning in later years is necessary only to remove unhealthy tissue, awkward or straggling branches, or to keep a plant from becoming too invasive. Some established plants such as English ivy, pachysandra, and euonymus require occasional cutting back of the tops to keep the beds vigorous, neat, and more disease free.

Insects and Diseases

Ground covers, like other plants, have their share of pest problems. The types of insects and diseases present depend on the selection of ground covers grown and the environmental conditions. The most serious pests of the more popular ground covers are discussed in this text.

Winter Injury

Shallow rooted plants may be heaved from the soil by the effects of alternate freezing and thawing.

Heaving tears plant roots and injury or death may result. To prevent this type of injury, cover plants lightly after the ground has frozen with weed seed-free straw or Christmas tree boughs. This covering will help prevent thawing and heaving and also prevent dessiccation injury from sun and wind.

Salt and other formulations used to melt ice on walks and driveways are responsible for considerable plant damage when carelessly deposited in plant beds. Once the damage is evident in spring, very little can be done to save the plants. Care must be exercised in snow placement in winter, and this should enter into consideration when planting initially. It is more convenient to plant away from areas where snow will be deposited than to throw snow away from plant beds.

PLANTS USED AS GROUND COVERS

The following alphabetical listing of deciduous and evergreen or semi-evergreen plants has been selected from a large number of plants which can be used as ground covers. Space does not permit the mention of all plants; therefore, the following have been selected as those which have been effectively used in Ohio during recent years.

Various notes are given relating to use in the landscape, ornamental characteristics, cultural requirements and the usual methods of propagation. A brief listing of species and cultivars, where applicable, is offered to recognize only the major differences between types.

The figure between the generic and common name represents the ultimate height at maturity.

SELECTED DECIDUOUS GROUND COVERS

Aegopodium podagraria
variegatum 8 inches **Goutweed**

Goutweed is effectively used under trees or in other shaded and moist areas. This plant will grow in sun; however, the white portions of the attractive leaves may turn somewhat brown.

Flat, white flower clusters appear in June.

Goutweed spreads rapidly and may become a weed if not confined. The foliage dies with the first hard frost.

Goutweed can be divided anytime during the growing season.

Artemisia
species 4 to 12 inches **Silver Mound Artemisia**

Silver Mound Artemisia is utilized in masses in rock gardens or rocky areas, on slopes and as edgings for walks or gardens.

The foliage is silvery, fine texture and eye catching well into fall. This plant grows in full sun and will tolerate poor soil. The yellow flowers are of little landscape value.

Artemisia should be cut back in mid-season, if the mounds begin to open and look unsightly. Propagation is by division of clumps, cuttings in summer, and seed for some species.

Species

A. schmidtiana—this species will reach 8 inches in height by 12 inches wide. The fern like, silvery gray foliage creates a pleasing effect as an accent or border plant.

A. schmidtiana nana—similar but more compact than the species.

A. pontica—this plant is called Roman wormwood and is common in old gardens.

Asperula odorata 6 to 8 inches **Sweet Woodruff**

A most useful ground cover in shaded, moist areas particularly under trees and shrubs. Sweet Woodruff is one of the few plants that flourishes under rhododendrons which are shallow rooted. Its dainty texture, dense growth and even height lends itself to use as an underplanting over spring flowering bulbs.

Small white flowers last from early May to mid-June and the leaves are sweet scented.

This ground cover prospers in average soil but is most vigorous where there is sufficient organic content.

The underground stems may be divided during spring.

Cerastostigma
plumbaginoides 6 to 12 inches **Blue Leadwort**

Blue Leadwort is used successfully on slopes or as an underplanting for shrubs. Often used in large rock gardens, this ground cover makes a vigorous carpet of even height.

The glossy green foliage turns reddish bronze in autumn. Outstanding deep blue flowers of late summer last until frost. In a location where blue flowers are needed in late summer and fall, this plant is an excellent choice. One disadvantage to Blue Leadwort is that the foliage is late to emerge in spring leaving a barren area.

Blue Leadwort will thrive in sun or shade in average soils.

It increases by suckering readily and can be divided.

Convallaria majalis 6 inches **Lily-of-the-valley**
Planted in full or partial shade, Lily-of-the-valley

produces a dense mat of foliage in summer and underground roots to hold the soil in winter. This plant is particularly useful under trees and shrubs where little else will grow or where fragrance is desired in the landscape. The white bell shape raceme flowers which occur in May are quite fragrant. Occasionally, red berries develop in autumn.

The major fault of Lily-of-the-valley is that the foliage begins to fade to yellow and brown by late summer or early fall. This ground cover should have yearly applications of fertilizer for best growth.

Clumps can be divided in spring by separating each root segment, or pip, as they are called. Set pips 6 to 8 inches apart in ordinary soil.

Cultivar

C. majalis 'Fortins Giant'—this cultivar is larger than the species in both flower and foliage. Occasionally, a pale pink cultivar appears on the market as well as variegated types.

Coronilla varia 1 to 2 feet **Crownvetch**

Crownvetch should be used in large areas and on banks. Highway departments use this ground cover for planting along roadsides and on embankments. Its use is limited in the home landscape because of its excessive rank growth.

This ground cover is difficult to establish, but when it does take hold, it can become rampant. The fact that it will grow in poor, dry soils explains its effectiveness along highways.

The showy pea-like, purplish pink flowers appear in early summer and continue sporadically until frost. The leaves are compound with each of the numerous leaflets about two-thirds of an inch long.

Propagation is by seed sown in early spring or by division of crowns.

The cultivar Penngift is the most common type found in the trade.

Cotoneaster species 1 to 3 feet **Cotoneaster**

Cotoneasters are woody shrubs for use in hot, dry situations such as slopes exposed to wind. They are particularly decorative along the base of a wall as an underplanting to trees and shrubs, in large planters, as a connecting plant between trees and shrubs, and among rocks. Cotoneasters, which are dwarf in habit, thrive in sun or partial shade.

All cotoneasters mentioned below have white or pinkish flowers in May and handsome red or orange-red fruits in autumn.

Pests attacking this genera are, on occasion, fire-blight, lace bug and spider mite. Each of these pests can be prevented with the proper pesticide applied at the correct time.

Large size plants transplant with difficulty and are, therefore, generally offered for sale in containers. Occasional light pruning helps keep the plants dense and attractive.

Cotoneasters are propagated by cuttings although some are grown from seed.



Cranberry Cotoneaster

Species and cultivars

C. adpressa—1 to 2 feet—Creeping Cotoneaster is valued for its short, rigid branches and low dense habit. The rounded leaves are usually less than one-half inch in diameter and wavy along the margin. The fruit is bright-red about one-fourth inch in diameter.

C. adpressa 'Praecox'—1½ to 2 feet—Early Cotoneaster is larger and more vigorous than the species with larger leaves. The fruit is orange-red nearly one-half inch in diameter.

C. apiculata—1 to 2 feet—The glossy, rounded leaves of Cranberry Cotoneaster are slightly over one-half inch long. The fruit is bright red approximately three-eighths inch in diameter with a more numerous fruit set than the other types.

C. horizontalis—1½ to 3 feet—Rockspray Cotoneaster is a semi-evergreen which will lose its leaves in early winter. A more vigorous grower than the above types, Rockspray, which should be planted 4 feet apart, will spread to 8 feet or more in width if not pruned. The flat horizontal branches make it suited for planting in large rockeries or at the top of stone walls.

The dark green leaves are one-half inch long, and the profuse fruit is dark red, one-fourth inch in diameter.

C. salicifolia repandens—8 inches—Bright green, willow-like leaves with good red fruit characterize this fast growing species. Creeping Willowleaf Cotoneaster should be planted at least 4 to 5 feet apart and in a sheltered site.

C. dammeri 'Skogsholm'—2 feet—Skogsholm Cotoneaster is a vigorous grower with a mounded appearance at maturity. Due to its late growth in autumn, occasional winter kill will result on the branch tips. The abundant white flowers are followed by bright red fruits.



Barrenwort

Epimedium

species 6 to 10 inches **Epimedium or Barrenwort**

Epimedium is a perennial ground cover for use in shade, particularly under trees and shrubs. Generally unfamiliar to the gardening public, epimedium has dense foliage of an even height with compound leaves remaining effective until early winter. In spring, the leaves are yellow-green tinged with red, turning green in summer and crimson in autumn. Small spurred flowers in loose sprays or panicles appearing in April and May are red, yellow, or white.

Epimedium grows best in sandy loam soils well fortified with organic matter in partial to deep shade.

Propagate by dividing after flowering in spring or in early fall.

Species

E. alpinum rubrum—This species is dwarf in habit with rich red bloom. More flowers per stem occur on this species than the others.

E. grandiflorum—The individual flowers are 1 to 2 inches, the largest of the genus. Outer sepals are red, inner sepals violet, and the spurred petals white.

E. pinnatum—This species is characterized by small yellow flowers with reddened spurs.

Forsythia species 3 feet **Forsythia**

For cover on banks and slopes or where a low shrub is needed in broad masses or groups, forsythia is an excellent choice. The familiar golden bells in April and dark green foliage until heavy frost are its outstanding features.

Forsythia grows in sun or partial shade with no particular soil requirement. It is insect and disease free; however, yearly pruning after flowering to remove old wood is recommended.

This plant will root easily from cuttings.

Species and cultivars

Forsythia 'Arnold Dwarf'—Mound-like in habit, this cultivar grows 3 feet high and twice as wide. Wherever the horizontal stems touch the moist ground it will root, thus making a rapid ground cover. Flowers are sparse and it should not be planted for flower color alone.

F. suspensa—Weeping Forsythia—Although reaching heights of up to 6 to 8 feet, weeping forsythia is best used to overhang rocky walls or ledges and occasionally in bank plantings. The fact that the branches root readily where they touch ground indicates its excellence as a soil binder on banks. This species flowers well in mid-April.

F. viridissima bronxensis—Bronxensis Forsythia—Low growing, usually reaching only 1 foot in height, this plant can be used on slopes or flat areas. Characterized by good flowers and narrow foliage, this is the lowest growing of the forsythias.

Hosta species 1 to 3 feet **Plantain-Lilies**

Plantain-lilies are a fine ground cover under trees and shrubs or as edging for perennial beds and shrub borders. For textured effects, for accent, or for striking contrast with smaller leaved plants, these plants have value. The flowers are blue, lavender, purple or white and appear from July to September. The foliage is the most outstanding characteristic being lustrous dark green, blue or yellow green, some green with white margins, and others with variegated markings.

Plantain lilies grow best in semi-shade and in soils with ample organic content for water retention. Grown in deep shade, foliage will be luxuriant and flowers sparse and in full sun "burning" of leaves may occur, particularly on the variegated forms.

Frost kills *Hosta* species to the ground; thus the area is bare and unattractive until growth starts late in the spring.

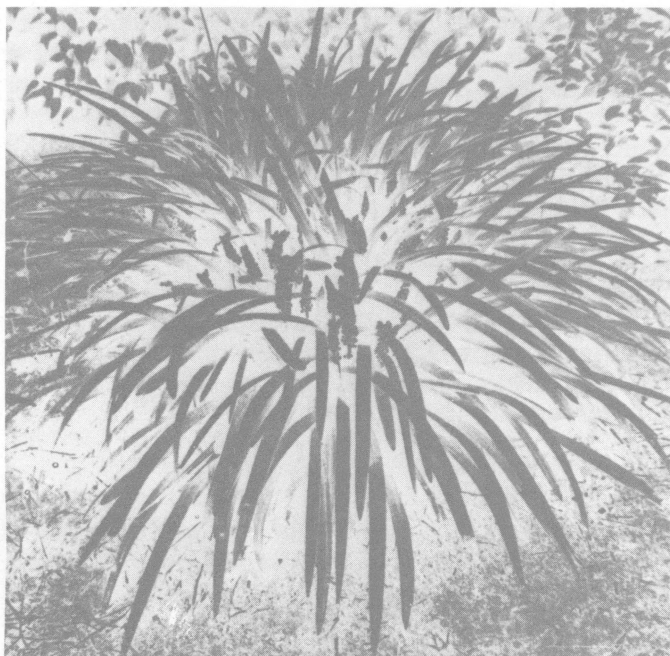
Seeds sown in the spring will produce flowering plants in 2 to 3 years. Some forms will not produce true to type and must be divided in spring. Plants over 3 years in age have thick crowns and are not easily divided.

H. albomarginata—This species has narrow leaves edged with white. The flowers are lavender and appear in September.

H. decorata—Thomas Hogg or Blunt-leaved Plantain-lily is compact, reaching 2 feet and has oval, blunt topped leaves about 6 inches long with a prominent silvery white margin. Lilac colored blossoms occur in August.

H. glauca (*sieboldiana*)—Blue-leaved Plantain-lily has large broad leaves with a blue-gray color. The lilac-white flowers in July are usually hidden by the leaves.

H. plantaginea—The fragrant Plantain-lily has yellow-green foliage 6 inches wide with white flowers lasting from late August through September. The flowers, on stems 2 feet high, are extremely fragrant.



Lily Turf

H. undulata—The Wavy-Leaved Plantain-lily is characterized by light green wavy leaves with creamy white markings. Pale lavender flowers appear in July on 3 foot stems.

Liriope spicata 8 to 18 inches **Lily Turf**

Lily turf grows well under trees and shrubs and can be used on slopes, as an edging plant or wherever soil cover is required in the shade. The green grass-like foliage of lily turf makes an excellent dense mass until well in the winter when it begins to turn yellow.

The blue or white flowers are borne on a spike slightly taller than the leaves. Flowers occur in July and August and are followed by blue-black berries in fall.

Adequate moisture and shade are the only essentials to success with this plant.

A number of species and cultivars are known in the south, but are not readily available in the nursery trade in Ohio.

Similar to *Liriope* in appearance is *Ophiopogon*, commonly referred to as Mondo; however, the flowers are partially covered by the foliage. *Liriope* and, to a lesser extent, *Ophiopogon* may be used more in the future due to their textured appearance and late summer flowering.

Lonicera species 18 to 24 inches **Honeysuckle**

Where there is sufficient room for it to spread, this twining vine has value in its ability to cover quickly and bind soils on slopes and steep banks.

Honeysuckle has clean foliage, fragrant yellowish flowers, and some black fruit.

Any type of soil is adequate, in sun or shade.

Unless carefully restrained, honeysuckle is not suited to the small home grounds or any restricted

area. It can become a pest in these situations by outgrowing its boundaries and twining itself around trees and shrubs.

Division and cuttings are the usual methods of propagation.

Species and cultivars

L. henryi—Henry Honeysuckle differs from Halls Honeysuckle in that it's more hardy and has a greater abundance of fruit in the fall which lasts until December. It also holds its foliage longer.

L. japonica halliana—Halls Honeysuckle is the most common type in the trade. It has escaped cultivation in the eastern U. S. and has become a serious weed in some areas.

L. 'Aureo-reticulata'—The leaves of Yellownet Honeysuckle have yellow veins. It is not as rampant a spreader and is a shy bloomer.

Phlox subulata 6 inches **Moss-pink, Creeping phlox**

A common rock garden plant, the moss-pink is often used for massing as a ground cover particularly in small areas. Used in sun or shade, this semi-evergreen with needle-like foliage makes a desirable mat among rocks, on slopes or flat areas. The creeping stems develop roots as they spread. However, in time, the centers of the older plants die out.

One of the most colorful of all ground covers, the flowers are white, pink, purplish or blue in late April and May.

Growth is more vigorous if the plants are in a slightly acid soil.

Moss-pink can be increased by division of the clumps, cuttings, and seed.

Species and cultivars

P. s. alba—A white flowering type.

P. s. atropurpurea—Characterized by purplish flowers.

P. s. 'Emerald Cushion'—Has pink flowers and the habit of growth is dwarf and more compact.

P. s. 'Eventide'—Pale blue flowers with a compact habit of growth.

P. s. 'Alexander's Surprise'—Salmon to rose pink flowers in spring and some in autumn as well.

Polygonum cuspidatum compactum 2 feet **Dwarf Japanese Fleeceflower**

A vigorous grower particularly well suited for large areas and banks where slower growing types are not effective. Mistakenly referred to as *P. Reynoutria* in the trade, this perennial spreads by underground stems which root as they grow with the smallest segment producing a new plant. Its invasive habits must be remembered when choosing a location.

The buds are deep red, the flowers in autumn are pink, and the fall foliage is brilliant red. The foliage will die after the first hard frost.

Plant in sun in average or poor soils.

Division is the most common means of propagation.

Species

P. reynoutria—Reynoutria Fleecflower grows 4 to 6 inches in height, has the same requirements, and is subject to the same restrictions as its relative.
Potentilla species 2 to 3 inches **Cinquefoil**

Principal use of cinquefoil is where a colorful high ground cover is needed. The leaves are fern-like and the flowers a brilliant golden yellow. The main ornamental feature of the plant is the flower which offers color in the landscape from early summer until frost.

It will thrive in hot, dry situations, and is perfectly hardy.

Depending on type, Potentillas are propagated by division, cuttings or seed.

Species and cultivars

P. fruticosa 'Gold-Drop'—Gold Drop Cinquefoil reaches 2 to 2½ feet in height with golden yellow buttercup shape flowers.

P. 'Katherine Dykes'—Katherine Dykes Cinquefoil is a little large for a ground cover in most instances, since it reaches 2½ to 3 feet; however, it does have yellow flowers all summer. This type of plant can be used as a foreground for a shrub border or in areas where some height is needed.

P. tridentata—Three-toothed Cinquefoil attains a height of 1 foot with small white flowers in July and August. The leaves, which are mostly basal, are dark shiny green on the upper surface. An excellent cinquefoil for rock gardens and other small areas.

Rosa species 1 to 4 feet **Rose**

Roses are especially adapted to use on banks where the fast growing shoots root and aid in preventing soil erosion. Roses also have their place in rocky areas, over ledges or flanking steps at various levels.

Trailing roses have colorful and often fragrant flowers, attractive foliage and, with some types, showy fruits.

Roses require average soil in a predominantly sunny location. Little care is required, except occasional pruning to remove upright and escaping stems.

Propagation of roses is done by layering, division, cuttings, seeds, and budding.

Many types of roses are available as ground covers and the following represents only a partial listing.

R. 'Max Graf'—Max Graf Rose—This rose with rugged type foliage and single bright pink flowers in June attains a height of 3 to 4 feet. It's a vigorous grower which will tolerate some shade.

R. wichuraiana—Memorial Rose—Probably the best of all trailing roses reaching 1 foot in height, this semi-evergreen grows several feet per year. The single white flowers with showy yellow stamens appear in late July. Fruits are not very conspicuous.

R. w. 'Crimson Shower'—Crimson Shower Memorial Rose is similar to *R. wichuraiana*, except the flowers are crimson, lasting from July through September.

Spiraea japonica

'Alpina' 10 to 12 inches **Daphne Spirea**

Use Daphne Spirea as a foreground planting for shrubs or in a location in the landscape where color is needed during summer.

This relatively new plant in the trade has small lance-like leaves on short wiry branches. Abundant light pink flowers in spring are followed by some flowering throughout the summer.

Flowers are more abundant if the plant is located in a sunny situation. Daphne Spirea will grow in practically any soil type. Some pruning in spring of older branches will result in larger flower clusters.

Reproduction is by cuttings.

Stephanandra incisa

'Crispa Nana' 2 feet **Cutleaf Stephanandra**

This ground cover should be used as a foreground for shrubs or on a slope. It will spread 3 feet in diameter, so it should be used in an area where it has room to spread.

The fern-like foliage which becomes reddish purple in fall is decorative. Small flower clusters are white, but the plant should not be used for this feature alone.

Average soil in a sunny location is all that is needed for this plant.

During winter the mounded branches will trap leaves, papers, etc., so it should not be used where these are likely to collect.

Pest free, stephanandra can be propagated by cuttings.

Teucrium chamaedrys 10 inches **Germander**

An excellent choice for edging walks, miniature hedge effects, and for rock garden use. The small lustrous, dark green leaves and small rosy purple flowers on upright spikes are its main features.

Plant the crowns 1 inch below the soil surface in well-drained soil in full sun. An annual, early spring shearing forces the plant to branch densely at the base and become a better ground cover.

Seeds germinate well, but slowly. Cuttings root easily if taken in early summer. Division of old established clumps is possible in spring.

Veronica species 2 to 4 inches **Speedwell**

A paving plant or an underplanting for perennials are two uses of speedwells which in the past have been used extensively for rock gardens.

Veronicas have clean, persistent, foliage with white, pink, or blue flowers in early summer. They are not particular to soil and are easy to grow in sun or light shade.

Propagate by division or seed.

Species

V. filiformis—This species has light blue and white flowers, nearly evergreen in its matted foliage. Do not allow this species to invade lawns because it will become a weed. Speedwell is resistant to

2,4-D and therefore not easily controlled, if allowed to escape.

V. repens—4 inches—Creeping Speedwell is a prostrate, mat-forming moss-like plant which is used for covering bare spots of soil in garden areas. Rose or bluish flowers are produced for a month in late spring. An excellent choice for use with spring-flowering bulbs.

Xanthorrhiza simplicissima 2 feet **Yellowroot**

This plant is well suited to moist soils, along streams and banks. A rather tall growing ground

cover, yellowroot is little known to home gardeners.

The purplish flowers in pendulous sprays or racemes appear before the leaves emerge in early May. The leaves are compound in whorls at the tips of the stems and turn yellow and orange in fall. The stems are usually all the same length giving a uniform height. The bark and root are yellow.

Plant yellowroot in sun or shade, near a pond or stream, or where there is ample moisture.

The plant increases naturally by underground stolons, although clumps can be divided or root cuttings taken. Seed is also available.

SELECTED EVERGREEN OR SEMI-EVERGREEN GROUND COVERS

Ajuga species 4 to 12 inches **Bugleweed**

Bugleweed or carpet bugle is used as an under-planting for trees and shrubs, in narrow strips among rocks, on terraces and in numerous other ways. This plant grows fairly rapid with little care in shade, partial shade or in sunny areas where ample moisture is available.

The rosettes of foliage lie flat and it spreads by runners from 3 to 10 inches in length. The flowers, usually blue, with pink and white flowering types available, occur on spikes 3 to 9 inches tall in May and June.

Propagate by division after flowering in spring or by seeds in early spring or autumn. Seed propagation may result in considerable variation in foliage and flowers.

Species and cultivars

Ajuga reptans—green foliage and blue flowers.

A. alba—light green foliage and white flowers.



Bugleweed

A. atropurpurea—bronze leaves with blue flowers.

A. 'Bronze Beauty'—large bronze leaves and blue flowers.

A. 'Multicolor'—foliage yellow variegated with brown and red markings and blue flowers.

A. 'Silver Beauty'—green and white foliage.

A. metallica crispa—dark bronze foliage with a metallic effect, crisped edges with blue flowers.

A. 'Rosy Spires'—bright green foliage with showy pink flowers.

A. genevensis—Geneva Bugle has deep blue flowers in May and June, lacks runners and, therefore, spreads slowly.

A. brockbankii—intermediate in vigor between *genevensis* and *reptans* with deep blue flowers.

A. pyramidalis—green foliage and blue flowers doing best in shade. One of the better types.

Arabis species 4 to 10 inches **Rock-Cress**

In the landscape, this herbaceous perennial will fit into rock gardens, dry walls, and in borders as it is often used for edging.

Not particular to soil and requiring little care, *arabis* species have good textured foliage and attractive white and pink flowers. Denser growth is maintained if plants are cut back after flowering and foliage frequently remains green all winter.

Seeds may be sown in early spring or late summer. Cultivars are increased via cuttings taken in summer. Division in spring is also successful.

Species and cultivars

Arabis caucasia has woolly, gray foliage approximately 4 inches tall with white flowers in early spring.

A. floro-pleno—a double flowering white species with fragrant blooms.

A. 'Pink Charm'—dark green leaves, stems 6 to 8 inches in height with rose pink flowers.

A. procurrens—an evergreen form with dark shiny green leaves and clusters of white blooms on 10-inch stems.



Heather

Asarum europaeum 6 inches **European Wild Ginger**

For deep shade, the European Wild Ginger is an excellent choice used as an edging or in mass.

The leathery, kidney-shaped foliage, which persists over winter is a glossy deep green. The flowers which occur just above the soil line are usually hidden by the leaves. Ginger does best in moist soils with ample humus and shade.

If in greater supply, this plant would be extensively utilized in shaded areas in the landscape.

Division of large clumps is practical only in early spring before new growth develops.

Calluna species 4 to 24 inches **Heather**

Heather should be used in groups or massed together for maximum effectiveness in sunny areas. Heather is used in rocky areas, on slopes, in sandy soils, and in hot, dry situations.

Heather should be planted in soils which are acid and well drained. Flowers appear in loose sprays and are white, pink, lavender, or purple. The leaves are over-lapping, giving the appearance of creeping junipers.

Heather suffers badly from winter exposure and a suitable covering is advised, particularly the first winter.

Propagate by natural layering, division of clumps in spring, or cuttings taken in late June.

Species and cultivars

Calluna vulgaris—bears rose colored flowers at the tips of the shoots, reaching 18 inches in height.

C. alba—white flowers July to September, gray-green foliage.

C. atrorubens (alporti)—leaves grayish, flowers crimson.

C. aurea—leaves golden yellow.

C. 'Camla'—low spreading, flowers double light pink.

C. cuprea—leaves golden yellow.

C. foxi—smallest of all with purple flowers.

C. 'H. E. Beale'—double silver-pink flowers on 2 foot stems.

C. 'J. B. Hamilton'—1 foot tall, twice as wide, pink flowers.

C. searlei—white flowers from September through November with silvery-white foliage.

Cerastium tomentosum 6 inches **Snow-in-Summer**

Snow-in-summer, an herbaceous perennial, was originally used for rock and wall gardens; however, due to its rank growth, it often outgrows these situations. It is best used in banks or rocky sites where cover is needed in a short time. Spaced 2 to 3 feet apart, this plant will fill in rapidly.

The gray woolly foliage makes dense mats and in May and June is covered with star-shaped white flowers. If the foliage begins to die during summer, it should be pruned back hard and new leaves will develop.

This plant thrives in a sunny exposure in dry soils.

The usual methods of reproduction are by seed or division in spring or fall. In addition, snow-in-summer can be propagated by cutting.

Daphne cneorum 8 to 12 inches **Rose Daphne**

Rose Daphne is used to best advantage as an edging, among rocks or as a foreground for broad leaved evergreens. Growth is best when a well drained, acid soil with adequate moisture is provided along with full sun or light shade. Difficult to transplant, it should be purchased in containers and located in an area with ample amounts of organic material in the soil.

The bright pink flowers are born in clusters above the gray-green foliage and are extremely fragrant. The usual period of bloom is late April and early May with occasional flowers in late summer or early autumn.

Annual shearing or pruning after flowering helps establish a dense mat. To prevent winter damage, cover the plants with straw, evergreen boughs, or similar material.

Euonymus fortunei 2 to 12 inches **Wintercreeper**

Euonymus fortunei and its cultivars are used in sun or shade to cover slopes due to their deep-rooting habit. *Euonymus* is vigorous and therefore used in medium to large areas, under trees, or as a connecting plant in the foundation planting, depending on cultivar.

This species seldom bears flowers or fruits which are characteristic of the shrub and tree euonymus. Some cultivars are valued for variegated foliage and others for good fall color.

Wintercreeper unfortunately is subject to *Euonymus* scale, a sucking insect, which requires considerable spraying to eradicate. An infestation of scale may cause decline in plant vigor, leaf drop, and eventual death. Prevent by spraying with a scalecide such as superior oil in early April. Scale can also be controlled in early June by spraying with Malathion, Lindane or Sevin when the scales become active and enter the crawling stage.

Propagation is usually by cuttings.

Cultivars

E. fortunei 'Coloratus'—The main characteristic of this vigorous cultivar, known as Purple Wintercreeper, is its purplish red autumn color which is retained all winter. This plant makes a good cover



Wintergreen

Gaultheria procumbens 3 inches **Wintergreen**

An excellent choice for woodlands or heavily shaded areas. Any area in which moss survives will usually be satisfactory for this plant.

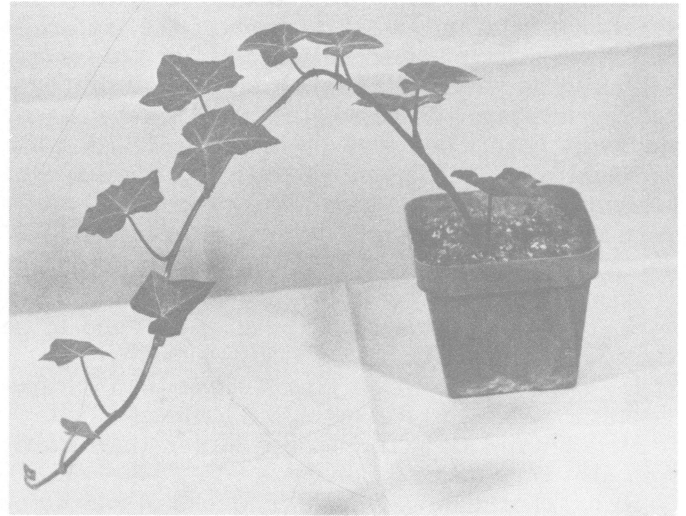
Cultural requirements are an acid soil, ample moisture, and shade.

The leaves of this evergreen are one-half to one and one-half inches long and shiny. The flowers in May are bell shaped and white and the scarlet berries in autumn and winter are attractive and edible. An extract, wintergreen, is made from this plant and used widely as a flavoring agent.

Propagate by division and move in mats or clumps.

Hedera helix 4 to 8 inches **English Ivy**

English ivy is one of the choicest of ground covers, growing best in shady locations. With its long trailing stems, English ivy is ideal for northern exposures on banks, slopes, or level ground where an evergreen is desired. This plant is lustrous dark



English Ivy

because it roots along the stems wherever they come in contact with moist soil. As indicated, it is very vigorous and is best used in large areas.

E. f. acutus—This one is widely used due to its small foliage and vigorous growth.

E. f. argenteo-marginatus—A medium to slow grower with cream-white colored markings on the leaf margins.

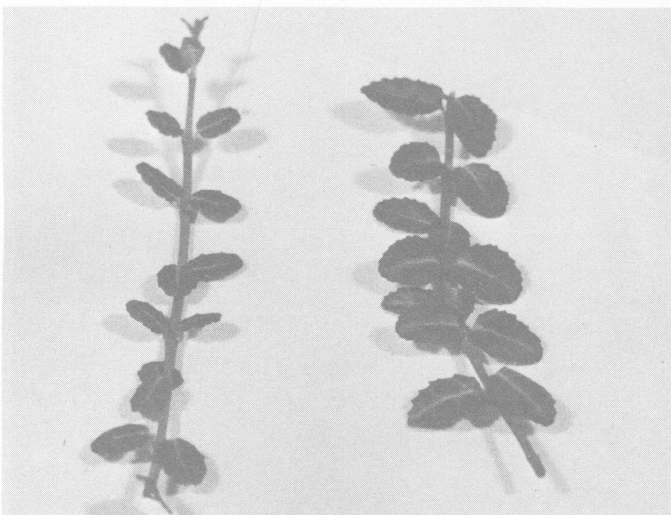
E. f. gracilis—The foliage is marked with white, yellow, and pink coloring.

E. f. kewensis—Kew Wintercreeper has the smallest leaves of all euonymus types, about one-fourth inch long, and rather slow growing. Use this delicate plant in small areas.

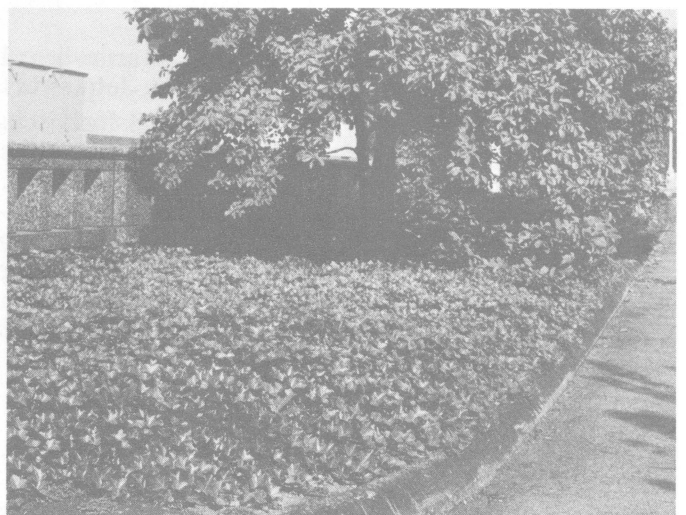
E. f. 'Longwood'—Longwood Wintercreeper has very small leaves only slightly larger than *kewensis* that lie very flat. Use in narrow spaces between walks and walls, in rock gardens, or wherever the fine texture can be used.

E. f. radicans—Common Wintercreeper is valued because its leaves are uniform in size and shape and is more rapid growing than *kewensis* and *longwood*.

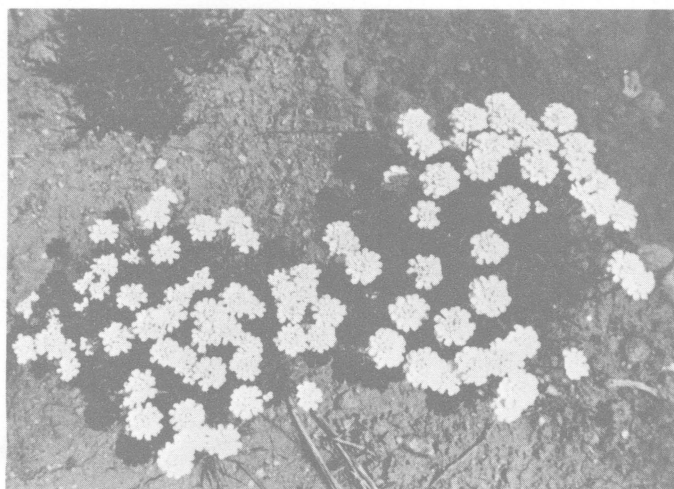
E. obovates—Running Euonymus—A native trailing species less than 1 foot tall, this deciduous type grows faster than the semi-evergreen types. The brilliant red autumn color of the foliage and fruit adds to its effectiveness.



(Left) Longwood Wintercreeper (Right) Kew Wintercreeper



English Ivy



Evergreen Candytuft

green and has a permanent quality possessed by few creeping plants. These features, plus its rapid growth rate, makes it suited for use as an underplanting beneath trees and shrubs, a connecting plant in the foundation planting, a setting for flowering bulbs, or in other areas of the landscape where year-round color is needed.

Relatively pest free, English ivy can be propagated by layerage; however, the usual method is by cuttings.

Avoid placing English ivy in a location exposed to continuous winter sun since the leaves will desiccate and turn brown.

Cultivars

A large number of cultivars are in the trade; however, the ones named below have been found to be hardy in Ohio.

H. h. 'Baltic'—Smaller glossy leaves than the species and claimed to be one of the hardiest of all.

H. h. 'Rumania'—Leaves are larger than Baltic and also very hardy.

H. h. 'Thorndale'—This cultivar has proven to be hardy and quite rapid in rate of growth.

H. h. 'Wilson'—This one is an outstanding form with excellent small leaves.

*Hypericum
calycinum*

1 to 2 feet

**Aaronsbeard
St. Johnswort**

This semi-evergreen, reaching 12 to 18 inches in height, is used as a foreground for taller shrubs and to cover large areas of ground. Grown in sun or semi-shade in sandy soils, the underground stolons are produced abundantly and a cover can be established quickly. This plant is most outstanding in July and August when the bright yellow 3-inch diameter flowers appear. Flowers will often last until frost.

Propagation is by seed, division, or cuttings.

Cultivars

H. 'Hidcote'—Hidcote St. Johnswort has abundant flowers, 2 inches in diameter from June to October on woody stems reaching 18 inches. It freezes back to the ground each winter.

H. 'Sungold'—Sungold St. Johnswort grows 1½ to 2 feet high and twice as wide. The golden flowers average 2½ to 3 inches in diameter.

Iberis sempervirens 12 inches **Evergreen Candytuft**

Used on slopes as an edging or foreground plant, between flowering bulbs or perennials, evergreen candytuft is a good selection. It is an attractive plant throughout the year, forming a dense mat as its stems elongate, bend to the ground, and root. In late May, the plant is covered with attractive white, flat, flower clusters. After flowering, a light shearing will result in denser vegetative growth.

Full sun or light shade and soil with adequate moisture are the major cultural requirements. Once established, it should not be moved due to its difficulty in transplanting.

It's easily propagated by cuttings or seed.

The cultivars in the trade such as Little Gem, Purity, and Snowflake are not as rapid in growth and therefore are not as suited for ground cover use.

Juniperus species

1 to 2 feet

Juniper

In locations where erosion problems exist, on steep slopes, or in dry, poor, or sandy soils, a juniper may fit the need. This plant can also be used to advantage as a foreground for deciduous trees and shrubs, as a connecting plant in the landscape, or as a substitute for grass on a rolling terrain.

Horizontal in habit and soft in texture, these prostrate types are attractive all year.

Junipers grow in practically any soil, withstand city conditions, and some will tolerate salt spray.



Andorra Juniper

The most prominent pests affecting Juniper are Phomopsis blight and spider mites. Phomopsis can be prevented by applying a fixed copper fungicide when growth first begins in spring and a retreatment 10 days later. Mites can be prevented by spraying as needed after early June with Kelthane, Tedion, or Morestan.

Reproduction is by cuttings in late summer and early autumn although many of the shrub and tree types are grafted.

Species and cultivars

J. chinensis sargentii—The Sargent Juniper is bilowy in habit, will spread 8 to 10 feet, and become somewhat taller as it matures. It is grayish-green in color and an excellent choice for seaside planting.

J. horizontalis—12 to 18 inches—Creeping Juniper. Several cultivars of *J. horizontalis* are commercially available including *J. h. douglasi*—Waukegan Juniper. Characterized by steel blue foliage during the growing season with a tinge of purple in the winter; *J. h. plumosa*—The feathery light green foliage of Andorra Juniper turns purple in the fall. Another cultivar somewhat more compact and slower growing is available as *J. h. 'Plumosa compacta'* or Compact Andorra Juniper.

J. h. 'wiltoni'—6 inches—Wilton Juniper. Also listed in the trade as Blue Rug Juniper, it is the lowest growing of all junipers. In addition to being low, it is very slow in growth. Consequently, its use would be in more confined areas, such as rock gardens, near feather rock, with colored stone, etc.

J. procumbens—2 inches—Japanese Garden Juniper is slow growing and distinguished by rather stiff ascending branches and dense appearance. Even more compact and slower growing is Juniper pro-

cumbens 'Nana'—Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper. The foliage is bluish green in summer and steel blue in winter on both types.

Mahonia repens 10 inches **Dwarf Holly Grape**

A low growing semi-evergreen for use in shady areas. Similar in appearance to Oregon holly grape, except it's smaller and the leaves are dull.

Requirements are a well drained soil in shade and away from winter sun because it browns severely some seasons.

The yellow flower spikes in May are 1 to 3 inches long at the ends of the branches. The bluish green compound leaves are spiny on the margins, similar to Holly.

Increase by division or root cuttings.

Mitchella repens 2 inches **Partridge Berry**

Partridge Berry is extremely attractive in woodland plantings in combination with mosses or near embedded rocks.

The evergreen leaves are white-veined and the fragrant white pinkish flowers are borne in pairs followed by attractive red berries one-fourth-inch in diameter. The fruited plant is often seen indoors in terrariums in winter. Partridge berry spreads into dense mats, since it roots along its stems.

An organic soil, shade, and acid soil are a must for success under cultivation. It is best moved in clumps of sod to remove as much soil as possible.

It's a challenge to grow this dainty little ground cover but well rewarding if successful.

Propagation is by division.

Pachistima canbyi 12 inches **Canby Pachistima**

If a trim year round appearance is desired in the foundation planting, use Canby Pachistima. An evergreen, low spreading to about 18 inches, this plant should be used more than it is at present. The leaves are less than 1-inch long, narrow, and turn slightly bronze color in autumn.

It will survive in full sun or shade; however, the soil should be well drained, slightly acid, and have sufficient moisture.

The plant tends to layer naturally or can be induced to do so by fastening the branches to the soil.

Once established little attention is necessary to successfully grow pachistima.

It is propagated by layers, division and cuttings taken in mid-summer.

Pachysandra terminalis 6 inches **Pachysandra**

Pachysandra can be used in practically any shaded area where it is difficult to maintain grass, such as along walks, steps, or the side of the house. An excellent choice for the location of this plant would be under Norway maple or other trees where it's difficult to grow anything else. Interplanted among narrow or broad leaved evergreens, it gives a pleasing and finished effect. Pachysandra is one of the most popular ground covers in use today.

Easy to grow and propagate, this evergreen



Wilton Juniper



Pachysandra

makes a superbly rich green carpet in shade or partial sun. If planted in sites exposed to winter sun and wind the leaves will turn yellow brown.

Creamy white flower spikes appear above the foliage in May.

The soil for pachysandra should be well drained with sufficient organic material incorporated. A yearly application of fertilizer is a good practice as is a pruning back of the tops before growth starts in the spring. Pruned plants are denser and of a more uniform height.

The most serious pest of pachysandra is scale which can be prevented by spraying as described for Euonymus.

This plant is propagated by cuttings taken in mid-summer.

Cultivar

P. t. 'Silveredge'—The light green leaves of silveredge pachysandra are marked with a silvery-white margin. Like many other variegated plants, it is more susceptible to winter damage unless some protection is provided.

Santolina

chamaecyparissus

15 inches

**Lavender
Cotton**

Spilling over ledges, walls, or slopes is one way this plant is effective. A number of gardeners combine it with thyme, germander, or other herbs to create a drift of fragrance not possible with other plants.

Of loose, open habit, its great charm lies in its pungent, silvery-gray evergreen foliage which gives it a distinctive appearance and texture. Its yellow flowers in mid-summer are not outstanding.

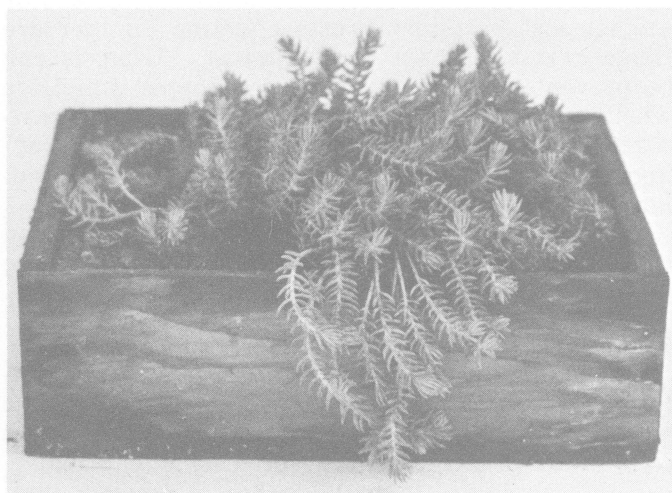
A well drained location in full sun and poor sandy soil serve *Santolina* best. Annual shearing keeps the plants compact and tidy.

Cuttings root well if taken in mid-summer.

Species

S. virens ericoides—This species has fragrant, rich green foliage and is similar in habit to above.

S. neapolitana—This one will grow to 2 inches in height with silvery pendulous foliage. It should not



Stonecrop

be cut to the ground each spring. This species is not as hardy as the others.

S. chamaecyparissus nana—This species is a low growing type with silver-gray foliage and rich fragrance, an excellent choice for hot, dry situations.

Sedum species

3 to 12 inches

Stonecrop

In wall and rock gardens, among ledges where soil is sparse, or on certain slopes, sedums are often the answer. Low growing, abundant flowering, and requiring little care, sedums are often of great use, particularly where low maintenance is essential.

Fleshy, succulent foliage is attractive year round, flower colors range from white to pink, red and purple, and the blooming season can extend from May until autumn.

Plant in full sun in well drained sandy loam.

S. acre—Goldmoss Stonecrop, although only 2 inches high, is one of the most invasive of the Stonecrops commonly seen growing over rocks, walls, and yards. Multitudes of bright yellow blossoms occur from May to July.

S. album—White Stonecrop is 8 inches in height, mat forming, and makes an excellent ground cover. The flowers are white from mid-July to late August.

S. lydium—Lydian Stonecrop, 3 to 6 inches, with leaves one-fourth-inch long crowding at the ends of the stems results in a compact tuftlike evergreen. It withstands dry soils very well.

S. sarmentosum—Stringy Stonecrop is a prostrate plant, 6 inches in height, with stems up to 1 inch long, rooting at the tip. Yellow flowers appear in July.

S. sexangulare—Similar to *S. acre*, but this species is neater and more compact with rich golden yellow flowers in July.

S. spurium—Dragon's Blood is one of the best sedums for ground cover purposes. This semi-evergreen will form dense 6 inch mats, becoming reddish in fall. It does best in sun in a sandy soil.

S. ternatum—The Mountain Stonecrop is similar to *S. spurium* with smaller leaves and white flowers in late spring.



Hen and Chickens

*Sempervivum
tectorum*

1 to 3 inches

**Hen and
Chickens**

Growing in American gardens for 300 years, this is an ideal plant for a rock cover or a wall garden in sunny places. For softening rough edges and making highlights in the rock surfaces, these succulent-leaved rosettes were made to order. Occasionally, they are used to cover old, low tree stumps.

Flowers borne on stems 3 to 10 inches high in mid-summer may be white, pink, red, purple, or yellow. The foliage forms and colors of this genus are very intriguing. Many are shades of green, blushed with red or purple, others may be bronzy red or a glaucous blue.

Good drainage and full sun are their only cultural requirements.

Propagation is by separation of the small outer rosettes, or offsets from the mother cluster.

Thymus serpyllum

1 inch

Creeping Thyme

Creeping thyme is used as a covering among rocks, ledges, walks, a crevice plant for walls, terraces, and for uneven ground surfaces. An excellent, finely textured creeper as low as any ground cover known.

This evergreen has aromatic leaves one-fourth to one-half inch long and very small, fragrant, purplish flowers in whorls on upright spikes from June until September.

A hot, dry, rock soil where the sun shines all day is best for thyme. It will grow in acid and alkaline soils.

Since the smallest portion with a root will grow, there is no need to start it from seed.

Species

T. vulgaris—Common Thyme makes a broad,



Myrtle

shrubby mound 6 to 8 inches in height but is not as good a ground cover.

Vinca minor

6 inches

Myrtle, Periwinkle

One of the best evergreen ground covers, myrtle is planted in large areas such as parks, cemeteries, and around public buildings in addition to areas in the home landscape. Myrtle is used under trees and shrubs and on banks in sun or shade. In shade, the leaves are glossier and richer. Myrtle will survive in sun if there is adequate organic matter in the soil and sufficient moisture. This plant is hardy, vigorous and fast growing, but not rampant such as honeysuckle.

The flowers are an attractive blue about one inch in diameter in late April and flowering will continue for a long period of time.

Plant in a well prepared soil in shade or sun. Light shearing once a year promotes bushier plants and an annual application of fertilizer retains health and vigor.

Plants are propagated by cuttings in summer or by division of clumps or rooted stems.

Species and cultivars

V. m. 'Alba'—This species has white flowers and light green leaves, but is less vigorous.

V. m. 'Aureo Variegata'—This one is distinguished by yellow spotted leaves.

V. m. 'Bowles'—This cultivar has larger and deeper blue flowers and a more restrained habit of growth than the common myrtle. It spreads from the expansion of its crown rather than by the rooting of trailing stems, typical of the species.

V. m. multiplex—Double flowers in white, reddish and blue tones characterize this species.

GROUND COVERS FOR ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Ground Covers Tolerant of Moist Soils

If the soil is essentially moist, but only occasionally thoroughly wet, almost any of the following plants should be acceptable. If the soil is actually wet a greater part of the season, only a few of the

following will survive.

Aegopodium podagraria variegatum . . . Goutweed
Ajuga species . . . Bugleweed
Asarum europaeum . . . European Wild Ginger
Asperula odorata . . . Sweet Woodruff

Calluna vulgaris.....Heather
 Hosta species.....Plantain Lily
 Liriope spicata.....Lilyturf
 Mitchellia repens.....Partridgeberry
 Veronica repens.....Creeping Speedwell
 Xanthorhiza simplicissima.....Yellowroot

Ground Covers Tolerant of Dry Soils

Dry soils can be overcome to some extent by adding peat moss or some other organic material prior to planting and by mulching to conserve what moisture there is. Watering the plants during dry periods assists in keeping them alive. Even with these maintenance practices some soils will be drier than others and the following plants will be the most likely to survive.

Arabis species.....Rock-cress
 Hosta species.....Plantain Lily
 Hypericum
 calycinum.....Aaronsbeard St. Johnswort
 Juniperus species.....Juniper
 Lonicera japonica
 halliana.....Hall's Japanese Honeysuckle
 Phlox subulata.....Moss-pink
 Polygonum species.....Fleece flower
 Santolina chamaecyparissus....Lavender cotton
 Sedum species.....Stonecrop
 Sempervivum tectorum.....Hen and Chickens
 Thymus serpyllum.....Creeping Thyme
 Veronica repens.....Creeping Speedwell

Ground Covers Tolerant of Shady Locations

Ajuga species.....Bugleweed
 Aegopodium podagraria variegatum...Goutweed
 Asperula odorata.....Sweet Woodruff
 Convallaria majalis.....Lily-of-the-Valley
 Epimedium species.....Epimedium
 Euonymus species.....Wintercreeper
 Gaultheria procumbens.....Wintergreen
 Hedera helix.....English Ivy
 Hosta species.....Plantain Lily
 Hypericum
 calycinum.....Aaronsbeard St. Johnswort
 Liriope spicata.....Lily Turf
 Lonicera species.....Honeysuckle
 Mahonia repens.....Dwarf Holly Grape
 Mitchellia repens.....Partridgeberry
 Pachistima canbyi.....Canby Pachistima
 Pachysandra terminalis...Japanese Pachysandra
 Teucrium chamaedrys.....Germander
 Thymus serpyllum.....Creeping Thyme
 Vinca minor.....Myrtle
 Xanthorhiza simplicissima.....Yellowroot

Ground Covers Tolerant of Sunny Locations

Arabis species.....Rock-cress
 Artemisia species.....Silver Mound Artemisia
 Calluna species.....Heather

Cerastium tomentosum.....Snow-in-Summer
 Ceratostigma plumbaginoides....Blue Leadwort
 Coronilla varia.....Crown Vetch
 Cotoneaster species.....Cotoneaster
 Daphne cneorum.....Rose Daphne
 Euonymus species.....Wintercreeper
 Forsythia species.....Forsythia
 Hypericum
 calycinum.....Aaronsbeard St. Johnswort
 Iberis sempervirens.....Evergreen Candytuft
 Juniperus species.....Juniper
 Lonicera species.....Honeysuckle
 Phlox subulata.....Creeping Phlox
 Polygonum species.....Fleeceflower
 Potentilla species.....Cinquefoil
 Rosa species.....Rose
 Santolina chamaecyparissus....Lavender Cotton
 Sedum species.....Stonecrop
 Sempervivum tectorum.....Hen and Chickens
 Spiraea japonica 'Alpina'.....Daphne Spirea
 Teucrium chamaedrys.....Germander
 Thymus serpyllum.....Creeping Thyme
 Veronica species.....Speedwell
 Vinca minor.....Myrtle
 Stephanandra incisa
 'Crispa Nana'.....Cutleaf Stephanandra

Ground Covers Tolerant of Acid Soils

All of the plants listed below will thrive in the soil pH range of 6.0 to 6.5. (A pH range of 5.0 to 6.0 is recommended for Daphne, Epimedium, Gaultheria, Mitchellia, Pachistima and Vinca.)

Asarum europaeum.....European Wild Ginger
 Asperula odorata.....Sweet Woodruff
 Calluna species.....Heather
 Convallaria majalis.....Lily-of-the-Valley
 Daphne cneorum.....Rose Daphne
 Epimedium species.....Barrenwort
 Euonymus fortunei (cultivars)....Wintercreeper
 Forsythia species.....Forsythia
 Gaultheria procumbens.....Wintergreen
 Hedera helix.....English Ivy
 Hosta species.....Plantain-Lilies
 Iberis sempervirens.....Evergreen Candytuft
 Juniperus species.....Juniper
 Lonicera species.....Honeysuckle
 Mahonia repens.....Dwarf Holly Grape
 Mitchellia repens.....Partridge Berry
 Pachistima canbyi.....Canby Pachistima
 Pachysandra terminalis.....Pachysandra
 Phlox subulata.....Creeping Phlox
 Rosa species.....Rose
 Sedum species.....Stonecrop
 Sempervivum tectorum.....Hen and Chickens
 Spiraea japonica 'Alpina'.....Daphne Spirea
 Teucrium chamaedrys.....Germander
 Thymus serpyllum.....Creeping Thyme
 Veronica species.....Speedwell
 Vinca minor.....Myrtle